

## Governor helps IDoA launch outreach campaign

Governor George H. Ryan helped the Illinois Department on Aging launch its outreach campaign to educate the public about the expansion of the Circuit Breaker and Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.

During a press conference held January 9 in Chicago, Governor Ryan proclaimed January 8-14, 2001 as Pharmaceutical Assistance Week in Illinois and called attention to the important changes in the program.

The Governor gave the remarks at a dedication ceremony for the Rush-Barton Assisted Living Residence, the first low-income supportive living center for elderly Chicago residents. It is a joint venture between Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center and Barton Senior Care, and provides supportive services with specially trained staff to assist residents with daily living activities.



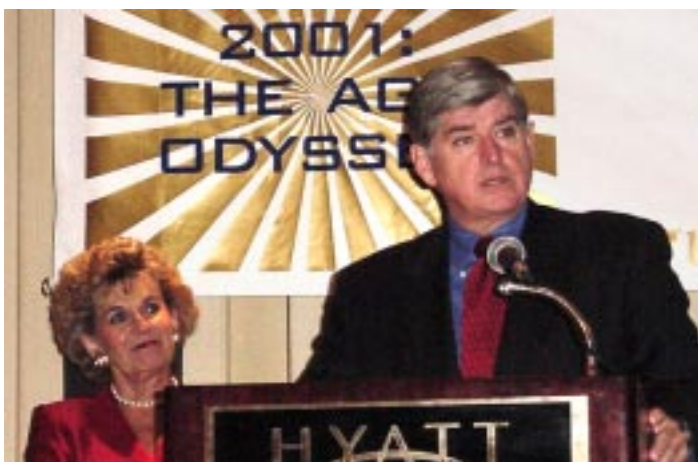
Governor George H. Ryan (left), Margo E. Schreiber, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, and Glen L. Bower, Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue, launched the outreach campaign for the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program with a press conference at the Rush-Barton Assisted Living Residence in Chicago.

The press conference was attended by several members of the Governor's cabinet, including Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber and Illinois Department of Revenue Director Glen Bower.

As part of its Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program outreach campaign, the Illinois Department on Aging has helped train the Aging Network on how to help seniors and their caregivers properly fill out the applications.

Senior Information and Assistance Sites have been established statewide so seniors can receive the help they need either by telephone or in person.

In addition to helping seniors locally, the Department on Aging has also developed educational materials such as posters and flyers that Area Agencies can utilize to promote awareness of the program and how to apply. ✿



At the Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services in December, Director Schreiber presented the Excellence in Aging Award to House Republican Leader Lee Daniels for sponsoring the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance legislation in the Illinois House of Representatives. (See story on page 4)

# Dear Friends and Colleagues,

So many accomplishments took place last year that it is hard to believe all the activity was squeezed into twelve months. These strides will, of course, keep all of us in the Aging Network very busy for the foreseeable future.

Consider the landmark expansion of the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program. The Illinois Department on Aging is working aggressively to educate the public about the changes. We have developed many exciting informational materials and continue to focus on outreach. (See front page.)

The Department also has the implementation of the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Facilities legislation to carry out this year. This means we are working closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health to plan for the regulation of these alternative housing options for seniors.

It is going to be a very exciting year also because our new Intergenerational program, Talented Older Persons in Schools, or TOPS, has already started in select areas of the state (See page 8). I know TOPS is going to make a positive impact on the lives of seniors and young people that will be rewarding and memorable.

Plus, the Illinois Department on Aging is working under a much-anticipated and newly authorized Older Americans Act that gives us more flexibility to find ways to address the needs of caregivers.

Indeed, progress made last year will challenge us throughout 2001, and these are challenges to relish. The theme of our most recent Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services, "2001: The Age Odyssey," captures the spirit of the challenge. As I said in my Conference speech, we must let pioneers guide us, strive for new destinations and break new ground ourselves.

Our teamwork will improve the lives of seniors for many years to come. I value your dedication and am confident that we will have another strong and productive year in 2001!!



Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margo E. Schreiber".

Margo E. Schreiber, Director

## Bright Start<sup>SM</sup>

A Smart Way to Save for College

### Helps Save for College

**B**right Start is a new program that gives grandparents, parents and friends of a child a better way to save for college. Through Bright Start, you can choose from several investment options designed to meet the rising costs of college. Options have sizable tax advantages. Trustee and administrator of Bright Start is the Illinois State Treasurer. For more information, contact 1-877-43-BRIGHT, or link to [www.state.il.us/treas/College%20Savings/index.htm](http://www.state.il.us/treas/College%20Savings/index.htm). ❖

## Taxpayers can contribute to Alzheimer's Research

**I**llinois taxpayers have the opportunity to contribute to a special fund through their state income tax returns. This special fund, overseen by the Illinois Department of Public Health, is the Alzheimer's Disease Research Fund.

This is the 15th year the fund has appeared on the state income tax forms (line 28c of the 2000 IL-1040 state income tax return). Since 1986, the fund has received more than \$2.1 million and supported a total of 100 research studies. Funds collected are spent in Illinois on research that focuses on prevention, early detection, cure and treatment of this devastating disease.

For more information about the fund, contact IDPH's Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at 217/782-3300. ❖

# Long Awaited News: OAA Reauthorized

After passage of the Older Americans Act Amendments by the United States House and Senate, President Bill Clinton in November signed the bill reauthorizing the Older Americans Act for five years.

The act was last reauthorized by Congress in 1992, and provides essential home and community-based services, assistance, employment and volunteer opportunities, health promotion activities, pension counseling programs, and protection from abuse in institutions and in the community for millions of older persons in the nation.

The following is an excerpt of President Clinton's statement.

*"...the bill I am signing today will strengthen and improve the delivery of important daily services to our most vulnerable aging citizens through our national network of state and area agencies on aging, tribal organizations, and other members of our community, including volunteers, many of whom are older persons themselves. The new legislation gives our states, area agencies, and tribes more flexibility in serving elders in their own communities and regions, and enhances the coordination of federal, state, and local programs to maximize the effectiveness of program activities..."*

The President further reinforced the need for the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which offers part-time community service employment to low-income individuals ages 55 and older and assists them in obtaining unsubsidized employment. Additionally, the Act calls for the convening of a White House Conference on Aging by the end of 2005. (See related story on page 6) ✧

## AOA Budget Approved by Congress Includes \$125 Million for Family Caregivers

Older Americans and family caregivers will share in new services and support under the Administration on Aging's (AoA) budget passed by Congress in December.

Included in the AoA budget, part of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY 2001, is \$125 million for the New National Family Caregiver Support Program. It will provide essential information, assis-

(\$ thousands)	FY2000	FY2001
Supportive Services	\$310,082	\$325,082
National Family Caregiver Support*	-0-	\$125,000
Congregate Meals	\$374,412*	\$378,412
Home-Delivered Meals	\$147,000*	\$152,000
Preventive Health*	\$16,123*	\$21,123
State and Local Innovations	\$31,162*	\$37,678
Grants to Native Americans	\$18,457*	\$23,457
Protection for Vulnerable Older Americans	\$13,181	\$14,181
Alzheimer Disease Demonstration Projects	\$5,970	\$8,970
Program Administration	\$16,277	\$17,232
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$932,664</b>	<b>\$1,103,135</b>

\*New program proposed by the Administration on Aging and authorized by the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000.

tance, counseling, training and respite.

Through the Older Americans Act, these funds will be provided to states to work closely with local Area Agencies on Aging and other community service providers to reach those who require the help the most.

The following is the budget for AoA for FY 2001, as approved by Congress. ✧

# Governor's Conference Marks Another Success

The Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services held in December at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago provided yet another opportunity at years-end to bring the Aging and Human Services Network together for educational and social activities. Again, the Conference surpassed 1,000 attendees.

The theme of the Conference was "2001: The Age Odyssey." Margo E. Schreiber, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, opened the Conference with remarks expounding upon the theme of an odyssey, or journey during the new millennium.

"The rules of the journey are simple," Schreiber told the crowd. "Let the pioneers guide you. Strive for a destination that will challenge you. Be willing to change your course,

if necessary, and don't be afraid to be a pioneer yourself."

Schreiber also lauded the accomplishments of the last year, including the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and Illinois' expansion of the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.

On behalf of the Illinois Department on Aging, she presented House Republican Leader Lee A. Daniels with an "Excellence in Aging Award" during the Conference. (See front page).

Leader Daniels was honored for his record of service to older Illinoisans over the course of his 25 years in the Illinois House of Representatives. Most recently, he sponsored the expansion of the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.

The following individuals and groups were also presented awards at the Governor's Conference.

■ **AARP** presented its *Community Connection Awards* to:

**Dr. Anthony Traxler**, Director of the Gerontology Program at **SIU-Edwardsville**. Dr. Traxler and ten students delivered over 250 "buckets of love" to older adults living in subsidized housing in East St. Louis. The buckets contained information and items to help make their homes user friendly.

**Geretta Bonner**, Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, **East St. Louis**. Bonner provides volunteers for AARP programs in East St. Louis and actively participated in Independent Living Week.

**Chicago Defender Newspaper**. Last year, the newspaper reported on issues of



Jonathan Lavin, President of the Illinois Coalition on Aging, and Margo E. Schreiber (right), Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, presented the Phyllis H. Pinkerton Leadership Award to Donna Ginther (left), the AARP Government Affairs Representative, Mary Patton (center right), Chair of the AARP Legislative Committee, and the AARP staff.

particular interest to older adults in the African American community in **Chicago**. The subjects included predatory lending, pay day loans, and prescription drug costs.

**Denise Becker**, of the Programs and Services for Older Persons at Southwestern Illinois College, **Belleville**. Becker coordinated AARP Technology Days at three sites and helped 500 seniors learn computer technology.





Cynthia Worsley (center right), Executive Director of the Association of Illinois Senior Centers, and Director Schreiber (right) presented The Senior Center Award to the Renaissance Court, represented by Pat O'Malley (left); and the Senior Program Award to the Chicago Department on Aging, represented by Commissioner Anna Willis (center left).

**Illinois Association of Senior Centers, Sandwich,** for helping collect over 12,000 signed postcards urging elected officials to provide more assistance to seniors to help pay for prescription medications.

**House Republican Leader Lee Daniels** received AARP's *Leadership for Excellence Award*, for sponsoring the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance legislation in the Illinois House of Representatives.

■ **The Association of Illinois Senior Centers** presented *The Senior Center Award* (see photo at left) to:

**Renaissance Court, Chicago.** Renaissance Court offers enriching and enjoyable cultural, educational, health and fitness programs for adults age 55 or older. It is housed in the **Chicago Cultural Center**, which is home to the city's only Senior Art Gallery.

...and, its **Senior Program Award** to:

**Chicago Fitness Plus Program, Chicago Department on Aging.** The CDoA developed a health initiative in 1995 which serves seniors from diverse socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. There are fitness rooms in each of the five regional senior centers, and there are also 50 fitness sites where a certified fitness instructor teaches classes.

**Awards** *continued on next page ➤*

## 2001: THE AGE ODYSSEY

**Terrie Holder**, Program Director of New Sprint Neighborhood Organizing Office, **East St. Louis.** Holder has been a guiding force for the AARP East St. Louis Action Team and the Metro East Task Force.

**Kay Werner** and **Susan Hall**, **SIU-Edwardsville.** Werner is Manager of Faculty Technology, and Hall is Technical Trainer at the Office of Institution Technology at the University. Both made AARP's Technology Day a success

in the Metro East area by presenting a computer seminar for persons age 50 and over.

**Lee Ashford**, Activities Coordinator, Clyde Jordan Senior Center, **East St. Louis.** Ashford helps with public benefits outreach training and screenings, and helped AARP educate seniors about good banking practices, driver safety, and tax assistance.

■ **AARP** presented *Partnership for Excellence Awards* to:

**Margo E. Schreiber**, Director, **Illinois Department on Aging**, for her work on behalf of nearly two million seniors in the state, her strong rapport with AARP, and her leadership in helping to expand the state's Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.

➤ **Awards** *continued . . .*

■ The **Illinois Coalition on Aging** presented its *Phyllis H. Pinkerton Leadership Award* (see photo on facing page) to:

AARP Legislative Committee and Staff, **Mary Patton**, Chairperson, and **Donna Ginther**, Government Affairs Representative, Springfield. The committee and staff were honored for advocating the increase in home-delivered meals funding, passage of the Illinois Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act, and expansion of the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.

■ The **Illinois Association of Nutrition Project Directors** presented its *Site Manager of the Year Award* to:

**Paul Howard**, Coordinator, Antioch Area Senior Center, **Antioch**. Howard is active with congregate and home-delivered meal programs and often visits homebound clients to monitor their well-being.

■ The **Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging** presented *The Sid Granet Aging Network Achievement Award* to:

**Al Kaser**, **Rockford**. During his 42-year-career with Hamilton-Sunstrand, he was an active volunteer. He continues to serve the Alpine Kiwanis, of which he is a charter member. He helped develop the Kiwanis "Meet and Eat Program," which merged with Lifescape Community Services, a full-service senior agency.

**Rural Health Partnership**, **Lincoln**. The Partnership is a grassroots effort to promote health on the part of Abraham Lincoln

Memorial Hospital; Family Medical Center, a physician group practice; the Lincoln/Logan Chamber of Commerce; Logan-Mason Mental Health; and the Logan County Health Department.

■ The **Illinois Association of Community Care Program Homecare Providers** presented its *Mary I. Hill Homecare Assistant Awards* to individuals who perform outstanding in-home services for seniors.

**Ruth Baker**, Henry County Health Department, **Kewanee**.

**Cathy Dean**, Shawnee Development Council, **Cairo**.

**Chan Nem**, Cambodian Association of Illinois, **Chicago**.

**Denise Serapin**, YMCA Senior Services of McLean County, **Normal**.

**Bertha Smith**, Home Helps for Seniors, **Harvey**.

■ The **Illinois Adult Day Services Association** presented its *Outstanding Adult Day Service Employee Award* to:

**Carolyn Scott**, Champaign County Nursing Home Adult Day Services, **Urbana**. Scott is being honored for her quality and compassionate caregiving. She has worked as a nurse and care plan coordinator at the nursing home.

■ The **Illinois Council on Case Management Units** presented its *Case Manager of the Year Award* to:

**Cathy Carter**, Case Manager, Embarras River Basin Agency, **Lawrenceville**. Carter, also a registered nurse, plans services and addresses needs for frail seniors in the Lawrenceville area. ❖

## **Department on Aging's Job Program Gets High Marks from U. S. Labor Department**

The Illinois Department on Aging has been cited for "Outstanding Performance" by the U.S. Department of Labor for exceeding national goals in its Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which is ranked among the best in the nation.

SCSEP assists low income adults age 55 and older who perform community service work. Participants are assigned to host sites, which are public or nonprofit agencies, or units of government, where they work an average of twenty hours a week. They are paid minimum wage and receive training intended to help them find employment in the private sector.

According to the Department of Labor, Illinois exceeded the 20 percent placement requirement and placed among the top twenty grantees in the nation by attaining a 34 percent placement rate for participants in 1999. In fact, Illinois placed in the top ten of grantees, taking into account those grantees which are state agencies. Further, it was the largest state, second to California, to appear in the top ten.

The Department operates SCSEP through twelve Area Agencies on Aging and two other subgrantees. ❖

## Cancer in Illinois

The following is an excerpt from the Illinois Department of Public Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program's 2000 "Cancer Profile:"

**I**llinois currently has the sixth largest elderly population in the United States, and the average life expectancy continues to rise. Since the incidence of cancer increases with age, cancer prevention and control in Illinois will continue to be of paramount importance for years to come.

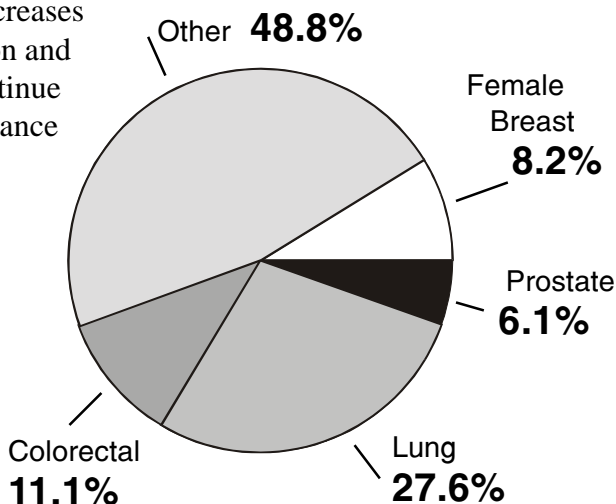
Projections for the year 2000 indicate **55,100**

**Illinoisans will be diagnosed with cancers —**

approximately six new cases, every hour of the day.

### Distribution of Cancer Mortality

Illinois 1998



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics

## Master Communicator

Jan Costello, Director of Communications at the Illinois Department on Aging, recently received an "Award of Excellence" for speechwriting. The Master Communicator Awards were sponsored by Women in Communications, Public Relations Society of America, and the International Association of Business Communicators. ✻

### New forms available

Due to changes in Illinois law affecting Advance Directives, new Power of Attorney forms have been printed regarding Health Care and Property to reflect the changes.

To obtain new **Power of Attorney for Health Care** or **Power of Attorney for Property** forms, call the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966. ✻

## Governor Signs Legislation to Allow More Low Income Households to Participate in LIHEAP Program

**G**overnor George H. Ryan in January signed House Bill 50 which raises the eligibility level for the Low Income Home Energy Program (LIHEAP) from 125 percent of the federal poverty level to 150 percent.

"This legislation will allow more Illinois households to qualify for home heating assistance," Ryan said. "With natural gas prices at record levels, it is important that we offer assistance to those who need it most - low-income families and seniors on fixed incomes."

The higher eligibility level means that more than 142,000 new households in the state will be



eligible for LIHEAP assistance. Under the new guidelines, one person can have a monthly income of no more than \$1,044 (compared to \$870 under the former guidelines); a two-person household no more than \$1,406 (compared to \$1,172). Benefits are provided directly to the household's gas or

electric utility or delivered fuel dealer.

The program is administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA).

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said, "Because of the Governor's successful efforts to secure additional federal money for the program, we have more than \$175 million of LIHEAP funds to work with this winter, compared to about \$112 million last winter."

More information is available by calling the toll-free LIHEAP information number at 1-800-252-8653. ✻

# It's Inter**generation**al

## Celebrate Intergenerational Week

**C**elebrate Intergenerational Week has been set for May 13-19, 2001 and encourages participation in an **Intergenerational Dialogue** sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging, University of Illinois Extension Service, Illinois State Library System and other partners Wednesday, May 16th.

Using satellite technology, groups will be connected by downlink video sites around the state. Each group gathered at a site will be challenged with the task of discussing ways communities can celebrate the uniqueness of each generation.

The teleconference / town meetings will endeavor to expand upon the growing awareness and commitment among state agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses for the promotion of Intergenerational thinking and action.

The day will be hosted by Dr. James Gambone, author, speaker, consultant and creator of the Intergenerational Dialogue process. The Dialogue process, which brings together five living generations, has been successfully used in more than 110 different settings across the United States and Canada.



Key objectives include:

- To promote setting aside one week each year to honor and celebrate Intergenerational programs;
- To involve all five living generations in Illinois in the planning and implementation of local activities;
- To demonstrate a successful dialogue process model utilized in Illinois and elsewhere; and
- To maintain Illinois as a leader in creating strategies and concrete programs that work for all generations.

For more information about Celebrate Intergenerational Week, call the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine at 1/800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY) or online at [www.state.il.us/aging/intergen](http://www.state.il.us/aging/intergen).

### Pilot Project Started by Central Illinois AAA

Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc. began a pilot project as a result of a partnership between the Illinois Departments on Aging and Human Services. Locally, the Area Agency on Aging has coordinated with 23 faith congregations to recruit and train 33 volunteers in six counties served by the project.

Volunteers have made 80 referrals to the Aging and Human Services Net-

work, demonstrating that peer connections do make a difference!

### Schools Named as Sites for New Intergenerational Program

Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber has announced that four schools and an agency serving seniors are receiving grants to start a Talented Older Persons in Schools (TOPS) program. The program encourages senior volunteers to tutor and mentor kindergarten through sixth grade students. An added feature is that the program encourages seniors to monitor classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, playgrounds and bus stops to promote school safety.

The following schools will each receive a \$5,000 seed grant: Lake Elementary School in **Granite City**; Egyptian Community Unit in **Tamms**; and Ford Heights School District, **Ford Heights**.



In addition, Community Resources and Information Services (CRIS), an agency serving **Danville** area seniors, will work with the Danville School District to institute TOPS. CRIS will receive \$24,000 and the Danville School District will receive \$5,000, which will allow an after-school child care program in CRIS' senior center in Danville.

"The sites were carefully chosen using criteria which considered truancy rates, reading scores and service to low-income students," said Schreiber. "We are grateful that the Illinois State Board of Education helped in the selection, which was difficult considering we received more than twenty applications." Open houses at each site are planned.

### Intergenerational Program Expanding in McHenry County

An intergenerational storytelling program linking elders with school-age children in McHenry County has expanded into the local school system.

The program is titled "Memory Makers," and it is sponsored by Illinois Storytelling, Inc., RSVP, the Illinois Department on Aging, and VISTA. It grew out of workshops that instructed participants on the art of storytelling. Volunteers now go into schools to teach children about such topics as home remedies, farm life, WW II, and a myriad of other topics drawn from life experiences.

For more information about the Memory Makers Club serving McHenry County, call 815/344-0181. ✧

## New Illinois Council on Aging Members Appointed

Governor George H. Ryan has made recent appointments to the Illinois Council on Aging, the advisory body to the Illinois Department on Aging.

Newly appointed members are: **Charles A. Crowder** of Flora; **Joyce A. Flynn-Childress** of Aurora; **Anthony Frazier** of Chicago; **Marjorie E. Sodemann** of Champaign; **Jeanne Tippet** of Springfield and **Eugene Verdu** of Belleville.

Council members whose terms were set to expire this year and were reappointed are **Chairman Robert O'Connor** of Aurora; **Jean Aldag** of East Peoria; **Anna Gray** of Belvidere; **Ronald Weismehl** of Glencoe, and **Annie Jones** of Chicago.

They join other public as well as legislative members currently serving the Council. ✧



Need help  
paying for  
your  
**prescription  
drugs?**

**If you are age 65 or older or if you have  
a disability, find out if you qualify  
for the Circuit Breaker/  
Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.**

Call the **Senior HelpLine:**  
**1-800-252-8966**

(Voice & TTY)

**George H. Ryan, Governor**

**Glen L. Bower**  
Director  
Illinois Department of Revenue



**Margo E. Schreiber**  
Director  
Illinois Department on Aging

## 2001: International Year of Volunteers Celebrated by RSVP

**R**SVSP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) of Peoria and Tazewell Counties has designated this year as International Year of Volunteers.

RSVP is a volunteer recruitment and placement service that provides meaningful opportunities for people 55 and over to share the knowledge and skills they have acquired over their lifetime.



Nearly 500 retired and senior volunteers served 87,000 hours through 75 not-for-profit organizations last year. RSVP is one of 23 such programs in Illinois and one of more than 800 nationwide.

RSVP receives federal funds, as well as funds from the Illinois Department on Aging. RSVP, serving Peoria and Tazewell Counties, is sponsored by the Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service. Friendship House is an ecumenical inner city ministry with day camps, after-school programs, food pantry and senior club.

Call the local RSVP at 309-682-8521 or log on to [www.rsvpvolunteers.org](http://www.rsvpvolunteers.org) to find out how to help celebrate International Year of Volunteers and ways to show appreciation for those generously serving the community.



## Trainings & Special Events

### March: Women's History Month

**MAR 6:** Rend Lake Resort, Findley; **7:** Radisson, Bloomington; **8:** Four Points, Oak Brook; **Living a Balanced Life From the Inside Out: To Live, To Love, To Learn, To Leave a Legacy;** Ill. Dept. on Aging; Marjorie Burnett, 217-785-5291.

**MAR 8-11:** New Orleans, LA; 1st Nat. Conference of the American Society on Aging and the National Council on Aging; 202-479-6006.

**MAR 15-18:** Oakbrook Terrace; Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant; Ill. Dept. on Aging; Lynda Ganzer, 217-785-3343.

**MAR 21-22:** Champaign; Illinois Senior Service Corps. Conference (Formerly the RSVP Conference); Ill. Dept. on Aging, John Lazell, 217-785-4225.

**APR 10-11:** Chicago; Mental Health and Aging Conference; Ill. Dept. on Aging; Ill. Dept. of Human Services; John Lazell, 217-785-4225

### MAY: Older Americans Month

**May 16:** Sites to be determined; Intergenerational Dialogue; 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY)

**JUN 28-JUL 1:** Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; 5th Inter'l Conference on Long-Term Care Case Management; 415-974-9600.

**JUL 25-26:** Chicago; 15th An. Elder Rights Conference; Ill. Dept. on Aging, John Lazell, 217-785-4225.

**AUG 10-19:** Springfield; Illinois State Fair.

**AUG 25-SEP 3:** DuQuoin; DuQuoin State Fair.

**SEP 19:** Springfield; Employ the Older Worker Week Awards Luncheon; Ill. Dept. on Aging, 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY)

**SEP 25-26:** Rend Lake Resort; **27-28:** East Peoria; **OCT 2-3 & 4-5:** Starved Rock Lodge; **11-12:** Oakbrook Terrace; 18th An. Case Management Conference; Ill. Dept. on Aging; Marjorie Burnett, 217-785-5291.

## Rebecca Cohen Memorial Educational Series offered:

- **The Sibling Struggle: When Parents Age**, 9 a.m. to noon, February 21.
- **The Older Parent's Struggle: When Children are Abusive**, 9 a.m. to noon, March 21.
- **The Therapist's Struggle: When Borderline Behavior Grows Old**, 9 a.m. to noon, April 18.

The sessions will be held at the Council for Jewish Elderly, 3003 West Touhy Ave., Chicago. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. for all sessions. Cost is \$50 per session, or \$135 for series. Student cost is \$25 per session. Credit is available.

The series is sponsored by the Council for Jewish Elderly's Center for Applied Gerontology, Institute for Clinical Social Work and the Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Call 773-508-1000 for information.

# Information EXCHANGE

## Janet Ellis Honored with Diamond Facet Award

Janet B. Ellis, Executive Director of the Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging, is the recent recipient of the Elvin F. Rydell Diamond Facet Award.

The award was presented to Ellis by Lifescape Community Services in recognition of her dedicated service to older adults. "She is always in the forefront, advocating for the rights and privileges of older adults, talking to our state legislators and keeping the community informed on all topics relating to older adult services," Lifescape said in bestowing the honor.

Ellis assumed leadership of the Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging in 1974. She is also very active in organizations serving the Rockford area, including United Way, Quota International and the League of Women Voters.

## Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration

**May 3-4**

Lisle/Naperville Hilton

For more information, call Mary Selinski at 217-785-3355, or the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY).

[www.icova.org](http://www.icova.org)

## Alternatives for the Older Adult Named Business of the Month

Alternatives for the Older Adult of Galesburg was named "Business of the Month" of November, 2000 by the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

Alternatives for the Older Adult was developed for people older than age 60 who need some assistance in everyday living. The organization serves Knox, Bureau, Henderson, Henry, LaSalle, Mercer, McDonough, Putnam, Rock Island, and Warren Counties.

"Alternatives for the Older Adult provides a helpful hand and trustworthy advice, linking seniors to services such as homemakers, in-home meals, adult day care, therapy, legal and financial assistance and caregiver support," the Chamber stated in its newsletter.

## Grant Results in More Meals for Homebound

The Egyptian Area Agency on Aging has awarded funding it received from the Philip Morris Companies to three nutrition agencies in Southern Illinois to deliver additional meals to homebound seniors.

"We have too many isolated, rural areas where meals cannot be delivered. With a grant of \$30,000 from the Philip Morris Companies, we can now afford to deliver meals in some of these areas," said John Smith, Executive Director of the Egyptian Area Agency on Aging. "We have estimated that as many as 600 older adults are in need of meals but live in isolated areas where we can't deliver. This grant will help us reach over 100 new people."

The three senior nutrition agencies receiving grants are Shawnee Community College, which serves Alexander, Johnson, Massac, and Pulaski Counties, Franklin County Senior Services, and Senior Adult Services in Jackson County.



## Good Work in Performing Evacuation Lauded

*The following letter was sent by Larry A. Brewster, Bi-Regional Administrator of the Administration on Aging to Lynn Niewohner and Todd Shackelford, Executive Director and Assistant Director of the West Central Area Agency on Aging, to thank them for responding when a furnace broke in a Quincy high rise, leaving residents with no heat.*

"On behalf of Assistant Secretary for Aging, Jeanette C. Takamura, I would like to acknowledge the terrific work you and other Area Agency staff performed in the emergency evacuation of the Quincy Senior High Rise. **Rose Coniglio**, State Disaster Coordinator for the Illinois Department on Aging, kept our office informed of your efforts to assist in the evacuation of the 135 residents and their eventual re-settling. We are especially impressed by the realization that your quick and effective response when the crisis was discovered probably prevented what could have been a terrible disaster with many lost lives..." ❖

## Seed Grants Directed to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



The Illinois Department on Aging will award 15 seed grants in the amount of \$2,000 each to the following agencies to establish support groups for relative caregivers:

Lutheran Social Services, **Annawan**; **Pekin** Public Schools – District 108; Dongola Education Assistance Corporation, **Dongola**; Egyptian Health Department, **Eldorado**; Pledge for Life Partnership, **Kankakee**; Edgar County Childrens Home, **Paris**; Bloom Township, **Chicago Heights**; Shawnee Community College, **Ullin**; McDonough County Health Department, **Macomb**; Senior Citizens of Logan County, **Lincoln**; Family Focus-**Lawndale/Chicago**; Egyptian Counseling Services, **West Frankfort**; Green County Health Department, **Carrollton**; Sinnissippi Centers, Inc., **Lee/western DeKalb counties**; and Winnebago County Health Department, **Rockford**.

Presently, there are 66 support groups for grandparents raising grandchildren throughout the state. These awards will bring the total to 81. ☘

## IDoA Says Goodbye to Key Staff

The Illinois Department on Aging recently bid farewell to four staff members each of whom served the Department for more than twenty years.

Those who retired from the Department were **J. David Roberts**, Executive Assistant to the Director; **Melanie Hallman** of the Division of Older American Services; **Marjorie Burnett** of the Division of Communications and Training, and **Fran Constant** of Fiscal Operations. Roberts, Burnett and Hallman served the office for 27 years, and Constant served for 23 years.

“We will miss these individuals immensely,” said Margo E. Schreiber, Director of the Department. “They have been with the Department since its beginning and their experience is irreplaceable. We wish these friends all the best for very enjoyable retirements.” ☘

Governor  
**George H. Ryan**

Director  
**Margo E. Schreiber**

Deputy Director  
**Lynda Ganzer**

Deputy Director  
**Nancy Nelson**

Manager, Division of  
Communications and  
Training  
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Specialist  
**Daisy Langston Juarez**

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